

SMITH SCANS MISSILE GAP

Woman Senator Decries Laying It All To CIA

Washington, April 1 (AP)—Senator Margaret Chase Smith (R., Maine) said today some Democrats are trying to use the Central Intelligence Agency "as a dumping ground for the 1960 campaign statements of candidate Kennedy."

The woman Republican Senator referred to statements by Senator Symington (D., Mo.) and others that a sharp downgrading of estimates on Soviet Russia missile and combat strength by the CIA had eliminated the "missile gap."

President Kennedy, Symington and other Democratic speechmakers said in the 1960 Presidential campaign that Russia held a wide margin in long-range missiles and blamed the Eisenhower Administration for letting this "missile gap" develop.

Created and Destroyed

In defense appropriations testimony released last week, Symington traced the course of CIA briefings on Soviet missile strength in 1959-60-61 and said, in effect, that the CIA created the "missile gap" up to 1960 and destroyed it in revised estimates in 1961.

Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, agreed the intelligence estimates of Russian strength had been revised downward sharply and said anyone basing 1960 missile gap claims on the then current estimates spoke in good faith.

Questioned about this by Senator Keating (R., N.Y.), on a program taped for radio-TV use in New York, Mrs. Smith said:

"I am very skeptical about putting the hot potato of the missile gap on the doorstep of the CIA."

"Becoming Catch-All"

"The CIA is becoming a catch-all to cover up the 1960 campaign statements of Candidate Kennedy which are coming back to haunt him as President."

"I do not have a very high regard for the past work of the CIA, especially after the Cuban fiasco and the U-2 disasters, but apparently it is now being used as a dumping ground for the 1960 campaign statements of Candidate Kennedy."

"I believe it needs to have a more useful purpose than that."

Asked about the investigation by a special armed services subcommittee into charges of Senator Symington (D., S.C.) that anti-communist military leaders have been misled, Senator Smith said:

"I don't see that they are misled. They are misled by the CIA."

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